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CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT

I have the honour to transmit the text of the Statement on International Disarmament issued by Mr. Eduardo Vargas C., Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, on 12 February last in the city of Santiago.

I should be most grateful if you, Sir, in accordance with established practice, would arrange for this text to be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed it to all delegations, both of the member States and of the non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) Ernesto Tironi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.92-60439/8803a

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT ISSUED BY ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I should like to announce some important advances in matters of international disarmament, a question to which the Government of Chile attaches the greatest importance.

First, I wish to refer to the announcement of the President of France, Francois Mitterrand, at the United Nations Security Council Summit on 31 January last, concerning the ratification by his country of Additional Protocol I to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco). We welcome that decision as a significant move towards the desired goal of the entry into force of that Treaty.

When this French initiative is added to the Safeguards Agreement recently concluded by Argentina and Brazil with the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna, and to the favourable statements of the Government of Cuba regarding its ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, there is now justified hope that by the twenty-fifth anniversary of its signature, in 1992, this instrument may begin to have effective validity.

Pursuant to the permanent instructions of President Aylwin, the Ministry is taking the necessary diplomatic actions for the early consideration in OPANAL, which is the technical body established by the Treaty for such purposes, of the legal and technical procedures for strengthening and updating Tlatelolco and bringing it into force. In preparing such actions, this Ministry will coordinate with the national technical body concerned, the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission.

I should also like to mention as an interesting development in the international field the signature on 30 January last of a safeguards agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Agency of Vienna which will enable IAEA to carry out the appropriate inspections of the installations and fissionable materials in that country. We have reason to hope that that agreement will be ratified and that, together with the agreement on reconciliation of the two Koreas, it will help to create a climate of security, peace and stability in that part of the world. I must point out that Chile supported the initiative of Australia, Canada and Japan urging the Government of North Korea to enter into this safeguards agreement and that our Ambassador to IAEA, as Chairman of the Group of 77 in Vienna, made important efforts to bring about consensus on the matter. This process taking place in a region of Asia adds to the explicit statements in favour of non-proliferation made by the States belonging to the new Commonwealth of Independent States and so considerably strengthens the global scope of international security.

Another important dimension is that relating to the multilateral convention on chemical weapons which is being negotiated in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and which unquestionably represents the most

important international effort in the matter of disarmament and a significant contribution to the protection of the global environment. In that connection, it will be recalled that Foreign Minister Silva Cimma, along with his colleagues from Argentina and Brazil, signed the Mendoza Agreement, subsequently joined by the other Latin American States before and during the Presidential Summit of the Rio Group at Cartagena. At present, we are finalizing with Argentina and Brazil the contribution which the three countries can make to the procedures of verification and implementation of the future convention in keeping with the position taken in the Mendoza Agreement.

Santiago, 12 February 1992